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survey, and thus to furnish, not an imbroglio, but a well-proportioned map in miniature of the entire field. His object is not to supersede detailed and special history, but to prepare the student for its intelligent perusal. To this end, he gives a rapid sketch of the predominant characteristics of each century, of the general course of events, and of the characters of those who controlled it, with lists of the principal sovereigns and the distinguished men. This outline-view enables the young reader subsequently to select with judgment such portions of more special history as it may best suit his purposes to peruse, and at the same time to connect each separate portion of history with its antecedents, its contemporary personages and events, and its issues in coming times. The work may perform an equally valuable service for the well-read student of history in supplying obscure historical connections, and suggesting such general views as it is often difficult to attain in the multitude and complication of minute details.

- 23.—*Ceylon. An Account of the Island, Physical, Historical, and Topographical, with Notices of its Natural History, Antiquities, and Productions.* By SIR JAMES EMERSON TENNENT, K. C. S., LL. D., etc. Illustrated by Maps, Plans, and Drawings. Third Edition, thoroughly revised. In two vols. London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. 1859. 8vo. pp. 643, 663.

It is the merit of this work, that it is difficult to say more or less concerning it than is said on the title-page. It has nothing peculiar in its style,—no fine writing, and no poor writing. Its descriptions are graphic in precisely the way in which its maps and plans are, by being accurate in outline and minute in detail. No one can read two such massive volumes for amusement or excitement. But he who would know all that can be known of Ceylon, past and present, need look nowhere else. A work bearing equal marks of thoroughness and completeness has rarely come under our cognizance.

- 24.—*Lectures on the English Language.* By GEORGE P. MARSH. New York: Charles Scribner. 1860. 8vo. pp. 697.

THESE Lectures were delivered under the auspices of Columbia College, as one of certain "courses of instruction called Post-graduate Lectures"; and they were designed and prepared for a general audience rather than for persons of finished academic culture. They are, therefore, popular rather than scientific; but they could have been

written only by one himself profoundly versed in the department of knowledge to which they relate. They contain a well-digested *résumé* of the sources, development, and successive modifications of our language, with admirably chosen illustrations, drawn chiefly from the "less known fields" of English literature, and adapted to introduce to the knowledge of the hearers and readers the large class of valuable books which are at once easy of access and seldom sought. The style is graceful and attractive; the opinions are sound and ably vindicated; the purest taste as to words, idioms, and authors pervades the entire work; and its thoroughly, yet not obtrusively, didactic character commends it as a manual for those who would speak or write accurately and elegantly, or would read with discrimination and profit. So much learning and wisdom, weighty thought and just criticism, have seldom been condensed into an equal space, and still more rarely presented in a form so well adapted to all classes of intelligent readers.

25. — *The Law of the Territories*. Philadelphia. 1859. 12mo. pp. 127.

THIS little volume consists of two essays, the first of which, had it not outgrown its contemplated dimensions, would have appeared in the Philadelphia North American and United States Gazette, in which the second was published. The author assumes and defends a ground midway between the extreme parties as to the rightful jurisdiction over matters of municipal law, and especially over Slavery, in the Territories. He maintains that the provision of the Kansas and Nebraska Bill, which declares that the people of the Territories shall be "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way," is opposed to the principles of natural law, to the Constitution of the United States, and to the provision of this very Bill by which it is declared that the Constitution extends to the Territories; and that legally and constitutionally sovereign authority over the Territories resides in Congress. But Congress stands to the inhabitants of a Territory *in loco parentis*. Its aim should not be to control the lawful will and preference of the inhabitants of a Territory, but, in the absence of separate and independent authority on their part, to give legal expression and force to that will and preference. To this end it may negative such local legislation as may, in the imperfectly organized condition and sparse population of the Territory, be procured by intrusion, usurpation, or fraud, and may consult the well-ascertained wishes of the people, in contravention of spurious acts of their legisla-